

5 **METHODS OF FABRICATING MOS FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTORS WITH
POCKET REGIONS**

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

10 This application claims the priority of Korean Patent Application No. 2003-
10323, filed on February 19, 2003, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the
disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention relates to methods of fabricating a metal-oxide-
semiconductor field effect transistor (hereinafter, referred to as a "MOSFET"). More
particularly, the present invention relates to methods of fabricating a MOSFETs to
suppress short channel effects.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 With the increasing integration density of semiconductor devices, individual
semiconductor devices, especially, MOSFETs, have been scaled down. Also, as sub-
micron MOSFETs are being more widely used, channel regions disposed between
sources and drains are becoming shorter. These changes may cause short channel
effects, such as a drop in the threshold voltage of the MOSFET and/or punch-through.
25 To suppress these short channel effects, a method of forming pocket regions by
implanting impurity ions between a source or drain region and a channel region under
a gate electrode has been proposed.

30 **FIG. 1** is a cross-sectional view of a MOSFET with conventional pocket
regions that is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,733,792. Hereinafter, a conventional
method of fabricating a MOSFET with pocket regions will be briefly described with
reference to **FIG. 1**.

35 As seen in **FIG. 1**, field oxide layers **2** are selectively formed on the surface of
a silicon substrate **1** using local oxidation of silicon (LOCOS), and impurity ions are
implanted into the silicon substrate **1** to adjust the threshold voltage. Afterwards, a
gate oxide layer **3** is formed on the surface of the silicon substrate **1** using thermal
oxidation of silicon. Next, a polysilicon layer **4** is deposited on the gate oxide layer **3**

and is then subject to photolithographic and etching processes, thereby completing a polysilicon gate electrode 4.

Next, a silicon oxide layer is deposited on the entire surface of the silicon substrate 1 and anisotropically etched such that silicon oxide spacers 5 are formed on the sidewalls of the polysilicon gate electrode 4. Then, impurity ions are implanted into the silicon substrate 1 using the gate electrode 4 and the spacers 5 as an ion implantation mask, thereby forming source/drain regions 7.

Next, silicon selective growth layers 8 are formed on the source/drain regions 7 through epitaxial growth so as to have a high etch selectivity with respect to the silicon oxide spacers 5. The silicon selective growth layers 8 have facets 9 that face the silicon oxide spacers 5. The facets 9 are almost linearly sloped down to the bottoms of the silicon oxide spacers 5.

Next, impurity ions 10 are obliquely implanted into the silicon substrate 1 using the silicon oxide spacers 5 and the silicon selective growth layers 8 as an ion implantation mask such that pocket regions 11 are formed to be in contact with inside edge portions of the source/drain regions 7.

In the above method, an implantation angle of the impurity ions for forming the pocket regions 11 may be directly affected by the inclination angle of the facets 9 of the silicon selective growth layer 8. Accordingly, to form the pocket regions 11 only at inside edge portions of the source/drain region 7, the height and the angle of the facets 9 of the silicon selective growth layers 8, typically, must be very finely controlled.

Also, in the above conventional method, the silicon oxide spacers 5, which are formed on the sidewalls of the gate electrode 4, are in contact with the silicon selective growth layers 8 having the facets 9 at the outside bottom edges. Thus, when the pocket regions 11 are formed by implanting the impurity ions 10, the concentration and the profile of the pocket regions 11 vary according to not only the materials constituting the silicon selective growth layer 8 and the silicon oxide spacers 5, which function as the ion implantation mask, but also the height of the ion implantation mask, which may be varied based on the implantation angle used to implant the impurity ions through the mask regions. Therefore, it may be difficult to precisely adjust the concentration and the profile of the pocket regions 11.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention provide methods of fabricating a MOSFET with pocket regions. A gate electrode layer is formed on a semiconductor substrate; and lightly doped drain regions are formed in the semiconductor substrate adjacent the gate electrode layer. A blocking pattern is formed on the semiconductor substrate where the gate electrode layer is formed. The blocking pattern is adjacent and spaced apart from the gate electrode layer a predetermined distance and exposes portions of the semiconductor substrate adjacent sidewalls of the gate electrode layer. Pocket regions are formed in the semiconductor substrate by implanting impurity ions using the gate electrode layer and the blocking pattern as an ion implantation mask. The blocking pattern may include a plurality of blocking layers.

In further embodiments of the present invention, the blocking pattern is removed and spacers are formed on the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer. Impurity ions are implanted using the gate electrode layer having the spacers as an ion implantation mask to form deep source/drain regions in the semiconductor substrate. The implantation of the impurity ions using the gate electrode layer having the spacers as an ion implantation mask to form deep source/drain regions in the semiconductor substrate may be followed by forming a metal silicide layer on a surface of the gate electrode layer and the source/drain regions.

In particular embodiments of the present invention, the semiconductor substrate is a single crystalline silicon substrate and/or a silicon-on-insulator substrate. The gate electrode layer may be polysilicon, a silicon compound and/or a metal.

In still further embodiments of the present invention, forming the blocking pattern includes forming a first blocking layer on a surface of the semiconductor substrate where the gate electrode layer is formed and depositing a second blocking layer on the first blocking layer, the second blocking layer having an etch selectivity with respect to the first blocking layer. A photoresist pattern is formed to be spaced apart from the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer by a predetermined distance, so as to expose portions of the second blocking layer between the photoresist pattern and the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer and a portion of the second blocking layer over the gate electrode layer. The exposed second blocking layer and the first blocking layer are etched using the photoresist pattern as an etch mask and the photoresist pattern is removed.

Depositing the first blocking layer may be preceded by forming a first insulating layer, which has an etch selectivity with respect to the first blocking layer, on the surface of the semiconductor substrate including the exposed surface of the gate electrode layer. The first insulating layer may be a silicon oxide layer, the first blocking layer may be a silicon nitride layer, and the second blocking layer may be a silicon oxide layer. The first blocking layer could also be a SiON layer and/or a SiBN layer. Etching the second blocking layer and the first blocking layer may include removing the first blocking layer that remains on the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer.

In additional embodiments of the present invention, when the pocket regions are formed, the area of the pocket regions is controlled by adjusting a thickness of the blocking pattern and the distance between the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer and the blocking pattern.

In particular embodiments of the present invention, the blocking pattern has a thickness b , the pocket regions are to be formed to have a width d' , the impurity ions are implanted at a tilt angle θ and an expected range of R_p and the predetermined distance c that the blocking pattern is spaced apart from the sidewalls is provided by $c = d' + b/\tan(90-\theta) + R_p \sin\theta$.

In certain embodiments of the present invention, forming lightly doped drains is followed by forming pocket regions. In other embodiments of the present invention, forming pocket regions is followed by forming lightly doped drains.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detail exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a MOSFET with conventional pocket regions;

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram explaining a blocking effect, which occurs in an ion implantation process for forming pocket regions according to embodiments of the present invention; and

FIGS. 3 through 14 are cross-sectional views illustrating methods of fabricating a MOSFET with pocket regions according to embodiments of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as being limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure is thorough and complete and fully conveys the concept of the invention to those skilled in the art. In the drawings, the shape of the elements is exaggerated for clarity, and the same reference numerals in different drawings represent the same elements.

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram explaining a blocking effect, which occurs in an ion implantation process for forming a pocket region according to embodiments of the present invention. Referring to **FIG. 2**, a device isolation region **22**, which is formed of a trench oxide layer and/or a field oxide layer, is provided on a portion of a surface of a semiconductor substrate **20**. A gate electrode **24** is provided on a portion of the semiconductor substrate **20** and is spaced apart from the device isolation region **22** by a predetermined distance **d**. A blocking layer **26** covers a portion of the surface of the semiconductor substrate **20** between the device isolation region **22** and the gate electrode **24**. A pocket region **28** is formed adjacent to a bottom portion of a sidewall of the gate electrode **24** by implanting impurity ions to a predetermined depth and tilted at an angle of $90-\theta$ from a surface of the semiconductor substrate **20**.

In **FIG. 2**, reference character **b** is a thickness of the blocking layer **26**, **c** is a distance between the gate electrode **24** and the blocking layer **26**, **d** is a distance between the device isolation region **22** and the gate electrode **24**, **d'** is a width of the pocket region **28**, θ is a tilt angle at which impurity ions are implanted (referenced to, for example, the substrate **20**), and **R_p** is a projected range of ion implantation.

In **FIG. 2**, when impurity ions are implanted into the semiconductor substrate **20** at a tilt angle of θ , a ratio (**r**) of a pocket junction region formed by the ion implantation, *i.e.*, the ratio (**r**) of the width **d'** of the pocket region **28** for the case where the blocking layer **26** is present to the width **d** of the pocket region **28** for the case where the blocking layer **26** is not present, can be represented by the following equation.

$$\text{Ratio (r)} = \mathbf{d'}/\mathbf{d} = (\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{b}/\tan(90-\theta) - \mathbf{R_p} \sin\theta) / \mathbf{d} \quad (1)$$

For example, in the case where a design-rule distance **d** between the device isolation region **22** and the gate electrode **24** is 1500 Å; a projected range **R_p** obtained in consideration of the energy and the concentration of a dopant is 600 Å; a tilt angle θ is 30°; and a ratio (r) of the pocket region **28** is aimed at 50%. Then, the following relationship equation is formed between the thickness **b** of the blocking layer **26** and the distance **c** between the gate electrode **24** and the blocking layer **26**.

$$c - b/\sqrt{3} = 1050 \quad (2)$$

Accordingly, if the thickness **b** of the blocking layer **26** and the distance **c** between the gate electrode **24** and the blocking layer **26** satisfy the relationship equation, the ratio (r) of the width **d'** of the pocket region **28** formed with the blocking layer **26** to a pocket region formed without the blocking layer **26** can be maintained at 50%. Thus, the entire junction capacitance can be reduced to 50%.

FIGS. 3 through 14 are cross-sectional views illustrating methods of fabricating MOSFETs with pocket regions according to the embodiments of the present invention. Referring to **FIG. 3**, a device isolation region **52** formed of an insulating material is formed in a semiconductor substrate **50** using typical device isolation, such as LOCOS and/or shallow trench isolation (STI). Next, a material (e.g., an oxide layer) for a gate insulating layer **54** and a material (e.g., a polysilicon layer) for a gate electrode layer **56** are sequentially deposited on the surface of the semiconductor substrate **50** and patterned using conventional photolithography. Afterwards, a first insulating layer **58** is formed using oxidation of the exposed surfaces of the semiconductor substrate **50** and the gate electrode layer **56**.

The gate insulating layer **54** may be SiO₂, Si₃N₄, SiON, ZrO₂, HfO₂, Ta₂O₅ and/or Al₂O₃. Also, the gate electrode layer **56** may be polysilicon, a silicon compound and/or a metal. Although, in the present embodiments, the semiconductor substrate **20** is a single crystalline silicon substrate, in other embodiments, a silicon on insulator (SOI) substrate may be used instead.

Referring to **FIG. 4**, first ion implantation regions **62** (LDD regions) are formed in the semiconductor substrate **50** on which the first insulating layer **58** is formed by implanting ions **60** using the gate electrode layer **56** as a mask. The LDD regions **62**, which cause a drop in an electric field to prevent hot carrier effect, are typically formed by implanting impurity ions at a low energy of several KeV or less.

Referring to **FIG. 5**, after forming the first ion implantation regions **62**, a first blocking layer **64** and a second blocking layer **66** are sequentially formed on the

semiconductor layer **50**. For example, the first blocking layer **64** is formed of nitride, and the second blocking layer **66** is formed of a material having an etch selectivity with respect to the first blocking layer **64**, for example, an oxide. As described above, the thickness of the first blocking layer **64** and the second blocking layer **66** determine the area of a region shadowed by the first blocking layer **64** and the second blocking layer **66** during further ion implantation for forming pocket regions. Although the present embodiments propose a blocking layer including the first blocking layer **64** and the second blocking layer **66**, it is also possible to form three or more blocking layers. Furthermore, in place of, or in addition to, a silicon nitride layer, the first blocking layer **64** may be formed of SiON and/or SiBN, which has an etch selectivity with respect to a silicon oxide layer.

Referring to **FIG. 6**, a photoresist pattern **68** is formed on the second blocking layer **66**. The photoresist pattern determines the width of a blocking pattern, which, along with the thickness of the blocking layer, determines the area of the pocket regions.

Referring to **FIG. 7**, the exposed second blocking layer **66** and the first blocking layer **64** are removed by an etchback process using the photoresist pattern **68** as an etch mask. As a result, a portion of the first blocking layer **64** remains on the first insulating layer **58** disposed on the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer **56**, thereby forming first blocking spacers **64a**.

Referring to **FIG. 8**, to remove the remaining first blocking spacers **64a**, a wet etch process is carried out using a material having a high etch selectivity with respect to the second blocking layer **66**. In certain embodiments, the wet etch process employs phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4), of which an etch selectivity of a nitride layer to an oxide layer is 40:1. As shown in **FIG. 8**, because the first blocking layer **64**, a nitride layer, is easily stripped by phosphoric acid, while the first blocking spacers **64a** are wholly removed, the exposed surface of the first blocking layer **64** disposed under the second blocking layer **66** is partially etched. Thus, an undercut part **72** is formed. On the other hand, the second blocking layer **66** is not etched and maintains its patterned shape.

Referring to **FIG. 9**, the blocking pattern is completed by removing the photoresist pattern **68**. The photoresist pattern **68** may be removed by conventional methods using sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide solution.

Referring to **FIG. 10**, second impurity ions **74a** and **74b** are implanted at a predetermined tilt angle using the blocking pattern and the gate electrode pattern as an ion implantation mask, thereby forming pocket regions **76** at the bottom sidewalls of the gate electrode layer **56** in the vicinity of channel inner junctions of the first ion implantation regions **62**. More specifically, some second impurity ions **74a**, which are not blocked by the blocking pattern, are implanted to form the pocket regions **76** in the semiconductor substrate **50** at a predetermined depth, whereas other, second impurity ions **74b** are blocked by the blocking pattern and not implanted into the semiconductor substrate **50**. In **FIG. 10**, portions illustrated with dotted lines represent conceptual blocking regions **78**, which are blocked by the blocking pattern and where the second impurity ions **74b** are not implanted. Accordingly, the pocket regions **76** are locally defined by the blocking pattern and have a predefined area.

Referring to **FIG. 11**, the blocking pattern is removed. That is, the oxide layer for the second blocking layer **66** is wet etched using a hydrogen fluoride solution, while the nitride layer for the first blocking layer **64** is wet etched using phosphorus acid having a high etch selectivity with respect to the oxide layer. Here, the oxide layer for the first insulating layer **58** is used to prevent the gate electrode layer and the semiconductor substrate **50** from suffering etching damage.

Referring to **FIG. 12**, gate spacers **80** are formed on the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer **56** to a predetermined thickness. The gate spacers **80** are used as an ion implantation mask for forming deep source/drain regions. The gate spacers **80** may be formed of nitride, oxide or a combination thereof. Forming the gate spacers **80** may be provided by depositing a material for the gate spacers **80** on the surface of the semiconductor substrate **50** and then etching back the material layer until the surface of the first insulating layer **58** is exposed.

Referring to **FIG. 13**, third impurity ions **82** are heavily implanted using the gate spacers **80** as an ion implantation mask at an energy of about several tens KeV, thereby forming third ion implantation regions **84**, which are deep source/drain regions, in the vicinity of the pocket regions **76** and the device isolation region **52**.

Referring to **FIG. 14**, a metal silicide layer **86** is formed on the surface of the semiconductor substrate **50**, where the first insulating layer **58** formed of oxide is exposed, and on the surface of the gate electrode layer **56**. The metal silicide layer **86** is formed by depositing cobalt, nickel and/or titanium and then performing a silicidation process.

While certain embodiments of the present invention that provide for forming the LDD regions followed by forming the pocket regions **76** are described with reference to **FIGS. 3** through **14**, the present invention is not limited thereto. For example, after forming a blocking pattern, pocket regions may be formed using a blocking pattern as an ion implantation mask and then LDD regions may be formed. More specifically, certain methods of the present invention include forming a blocking pattern, forming pocket regions, removing the blocking pattern, forming LDD regions in a semiconductor substrate using a gate electrode layer as an ion implantation mask, forming spacers on the sidewalls of the gate electrode layer, and forming deep source/drain regions in the semiconductor substrate using the gate electrode layer including the spacers as an ion implantation mask.

While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to particular embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.